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Final

This report covers the period from November 1985 to February 28 1986. Please refer to the Technical Report Nov. 1/84 - Oct. 31/85 for the Introduction.

The short rains (Vuli) commenced in November and ended mid-December. From mid-December until March there was no precipitation. The main work during the dry season is plot maintenance i.e. roguing, weeding etc and preparation of sites for the long rains (Masika).

Coral Rag Plot: Fumba

One of the Project goals is to aid development of the coral rag on Unguja, Zanzibar is comprised of two islands, Unguja and Pemba). The coral areas cover approximately 2/3 of the island. The Root and Tuber Project is working in conjunction with the Coral Rag Project on improving farming systems and introducing new varieties of crops to the farmers in these areas. A trial site was selected approximately 12 Km from Zanzibar town with a soil representative of the coral rag areas. The site had not been cultivated for eight years. A one hectare site was cleared of brush and trees and then burned. A fence was built on two sides with a bush barrier built on the other sides. The plot was enclosed due to cattle and monkeys. Land clearing was completed in five days. A trial was established with three cassava varieties, TMS 30835, TMS 533758 and Mzungu (local). An intercrop trial with a short term maize variety and 2 cassava varieties, (TMS 30835 and Mzungu), was also planted. The maize was planted in the third week of February and the cassava was planted 1 month later. Each cassava cutting was planted in small mounds that were cleared of roots and rocks. Preparation of these mounds took 5 days and approximately 300 were dug. The cassava will be monitored as to resistance to Cassava Mosaic Disease and to the Green Spider Mite. Yield data will be used to evaluate variety differences.

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The Effect of Green Spider Mites on Cassava Yields: Bambi

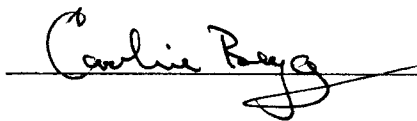
Four cassava varieties, TMS 53375B, TMS 30835, Mzungu and Mwezi hikosi (the last two are local varieties) were planted in a Randomized Latin Square with 4 replicates and 4 subplots per replicate. There were 2 treatment levels, control and sprayed. The spray, 40% dimethoate was applied when Green mites were observed on the plants. The planting date was Dec. 3/85. Bambi is located on the coral rag soils which are very permeable and the area receives less rainfall than Kizimbani. Many cuttings were lost due to the dry weather. In some subplots the plant number was reduced to 10 viable cuttings. It was decided to discontinue the experiment and replant at the Masika rains in 1986.

Tropical Kudsoo and Cassava Intercrop: Kizimbani

One site which had been under continuous cultivation for over 5 years was showing signs of soil exhaustion (low yields, increased weed growth etc). One cassava variety TMS 30835 (planted Nov. 13/85) was intercropped with Tropical Kudsoo on ridges 1.5 m apart. It was decided to use the site for multiplication of cassava and after removal of the cuttings allow the already established Kudsoo to cover the remaining ridges. Both species are well established on the site.

Extension

The area of Fuoni, 10 Km from Zanzibar town was selected for extension work. At five villages posters were exhibited and a talk given on the use of clean (free of CMD) planting material, roguing for CMD and management practices (i.e. weeding etc). The talks were well attended in 3 of the 5 villages. Thirty-five farmers received cuttings, of 3 different varieties (TMS 30835, Mzungu and TR-3-A). The cuttings were distributed the first two weeks of December /85. A follow-up was done in February. Of the 35 distributions, less than a quarter of the plantings were successful. Many plots had been eaten by goats. Several farmers did not plant in time before the end of the Vuli and the cuttings died in the hot season. Of the plots that were successful all were CMD free and the varieties were healthy and well established.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Caroline Begg", written over a horizontal line.

Caroline Begg

Acting Project Leader at the time of this Report

cc

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